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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1-25. (canceled)

26. (new) A sample analyzer for analyzing a sample, comprising:
- a pipette for suctioning the sample;
 - a sample preparation unit for preparing a measured sample by diluting the sample supplied by the pipette;
 - a pipette washing unit for washing the pipette;
 - a solution container holder for holding a solution container comprising an acidic solution used for the diluting of the sample by the sample preparation unit and for the washing of the pipette by the pipette washing unit;
 - a detection unit for obtaining a detection signal from the measured sample prepared by the sample preparation unit; and
 - a controller for calculating an analysis result from the detection signal obtained by the detection unit.
27. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, further comprising a washing solution supplier for supplying a washing solution having a pH that is higher than a pH of the acidic solution;
- wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit and the washing solution supplier such that the pipette is washed with the washing solution when the analysis result is less than a predetermined value, and the pipette is washed with the acidic solution when the analysis result is equal to or greater than the predetermined value.
28. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 27, wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit and the washing solution supplier such that the pipette is washed

with the acidic solution after having been washed with the washing solution when the analysis result is equal to or greater than the predetermined value.

29. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit such that the pipette washing unit washes the pipette by suctioning and discharging the acidic solution into and from the pipette.

30. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit such that the pipette washing unit washes the pipette by holding the acidic solution within the pipette for a predetermined time.

31. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, further comprising a washing solution supplier for supplying a washing solution having a pH that is higher than a pH of the acidic solution;

wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit and the washing solution supplier such that an inside of the pipette is washed using the acidic solution, and an outside of the pipette is washed using the washing solution.

32. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, wherein the controller calculates number of bacteria contained in the sample.

33. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, wherein the acidic solution has a pH of less than 5.0.

34. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, wherein the acidic solution has a pH of between 2 and 3.

35. (new) A bacteria analyzer for analyzing a bacterium in a sample, comprising:
a pipette for suctioning the sample;
a sample preparation unit for preparing a measured sample from the sample supplied by the pipette;

a pipette washing unit for washing the pipette;
a solution container holder for holding a solution container comprising an acidic solution used for the washing of the pipette by the pipette washing unit;
a detection unit for obtaining a detection signal from the measured sample prepared by the sample preparation unit; and
a controller for calculating an analysis result relating to a bacterium in the sample from the detection signal obtained by the detection unit.

36. (new) The bacteria analyzer of claim 35, wherein the controller controls the sample preparation unit such that the sample preparation unit prepares the measured sample by diluting the sample with a dilution fluid to form a diluted sample, and staining the diluted sample with a stain.

37. (new) The bacteria analyzer of claim 36, wherein the acidic solution is used as the dilution fluid.

38. (new) The bacteria analyzer of claim 36, wherein the dilution fluid is used for destroying a membrane of the bacterium for effective staining of the bacterium.

39. (new) The bacteria analyzer of claim 35, wherein the sample comprises urine.

40. (new) A urine analyzer for analyzing a urine sample, comprising:
a pipette for suctioning the urine sample;
a sample preparation unit for preparing a measured sample by diluting the urine sample supplied by the pipette;
a pipette washing unit for washing the pipette;
a solution container holder for holding a solution container comprising an acidic solution used for the diluting of the urine sample by the sample preparation unit and for the washing of the pipette by the pipette washing unit;
a detection unit for obtaining a detection signal from the measured sample prepared by the sample preparation unit; and

a controller for calculating an analysis result from the detection signal obtained by the detection unit.

41. (new) The bacteria analyzer of claim 35, further comprising a washing solution supplier for supplying a washing solution having a pH that is higher than a pH of the acidic solution;

wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit and the washing solution supplier such that the pipette is washed with the washing solution when the analysis result is less than a predetermined number of bacteria, and the pipette is washed with the acidic solution when the analysis result is equal to or greater than the predetermined number of bacteria.

42. (new) The urine analyzer of claim 40, further comprising a washing solution supplier for supplying a washing solution having a pH that is higher than a pH of the acidic solution;

wherein the controller controls the pipette washing unit and the washing solution supplier such that the pipette is washed with the washing solution when the analysis result is less than a predetermined value, and the pipette is washed with the acidic solution when the analysis result is equal to or greater than the predetermined value.

43. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 26, further comprising a sheath fluid supplier for supplying a sheath fluid to the detection unit to form a sheath flow.

44. (new) The sample analyzer of claim 27, further comprising a sheath fluid supplier for supplying a sheath fluid to the detection unit to form a sheath flow;

wherein the sheath fluid is used as the washing solution.

45. (new) A sample analyzer for analyzing a sample, comprising:
a pipette for suctioning the sample;

a sample preparation unit for preparing a measured sample by diluting the sample supplied by the pipette;

a pipette washing unit for washing the pipette;

a solution supplier for supplying an acidic solution to the sample preparation unit and the pipette washing unit;

a detection unit for obtaining a detection signal from the measured sample prepared by the sample preparation unit; and

a controller for calculating an analysis result from the detection signal obtained by the detection unit;

wherein the controller controls the solution supplier such that the solution supplier supplies the acidic solution to the sample preparation unit in order to dilute the sample supplied by the pipette and to the pipette washing unit in order to wash the pipette.

46. (new) A sample analyzer for analyzing a sample, comprising:

a pipette for suctioning the sample;

a sample preparation unit for preparing a measured sample by diluting the sample supplied by the pipette;

a pipette washing unit for washing the pipette;

a solution container holder;

a solution container comprising an acidic solution used for the diluting of the sample by the sample preparation unit and for the washing of the pipette by the pipette washing unit;

a detection unit for obtaining a detection signal from the measured sample prepared by the sample preparation unit; and

a controller for calculating an analysis result from the detection signal obtained by the detection unit.